

kept Alaskans first and foremost in all of his work in the Senate.

I have had the privilege of serving with MARK on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, and have seen firsthand how hard he has worked on behalf of Alaska's veterans. He has been tenacious in working to see that Alaska's veterans and Natives have access to health care—and creatively, worked to see that veterans can access the tribal health care delivery system. As he has put it, if the clinics are there for some, why not have them be available to all?

This is the kind of commonsense solution that is a hallmark of his time in the Senate.

I will miss his good humor and his hard work. It is been a pleasure serving with MARK and I wish him and his family all the best in their next chapter.

Aloha MARK and a hui hou, "until we meet again."

JOHN WALSH

Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to our colleague, Senator JOHN WALSH of Montana. While his Senate career is shorter than any of us would have hoped, the institution is better for his service and he will be missed.

His road to this body is different than most anyone else. He grew up in Butte, MT, close enough to a copper mine that his house would shake when the dynamite went off. His dreams were modest—get an education, find a job, and do some fishing.

But life often takes unexpected turns. He enrolled in the Montana National Guard in order to pursue those modest dreams, and found a home in the Guard. He rose to serve as Adjutant General of the Montana National Guard. In this capacity he commanded troops in Iraq in 2004 and 2005. He earned the Bronze Star, Legion of Merit Award, and Combat Infantry Badge for his efforts leading over 700 young men and women. This military experience is one that he carries with him in ways that most of us will never know.

After retiring from the National Guard in 2012 he served as Montana's Lieutenant Governor, and currently, as a Senator. He is the first Iraq war combat veteran to serve in the Senate.

His experience growing up in a working-class family, serving in the military, and as a public servant in elected office have made him a valuable Member of this body.

His advocacy for Montana, and for our servicemembers and veterans, and his perspective on national security matters—particularly reigning in the National Security Agency—have been valuable to our caucus. I know that he will carry these priorities forward in whatever endeavor he pursues next.

I am proud to have served as his colleague in the Senate. Aloha JOHN, and a hui hou, "until we meet again," to you, your wife Janet, and your family.

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to celebrate and thank the 13 outgoing Senators who have worked tirelessly to

represent their home States in the Senate: Senator MARK BEGICH, Senator SAXBY CHAMBLISS, Senator TOM COBURN, Senator KAY HAGAN, Senator TOM HARKIN, Senator MIKE JOHANNIS, Senator TIM JOHNSON, Senator MARY LANDRIEU, Senator CARL LEVIN, Senator MARK PRYOR, Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER, Senator MARK UDALL, and Senator JOHN WALSH.

I have worked side by side with these men and women for years—some for decades—and witnessed firsthand their extraordinary commitment to public service and the people they so proudly represent.

Even when we didn't see eye to eye on every issue, I always deeply respected and admired their service to our Nation and their dedication to fight for what they believe in.

It has been a privilege to serve alongside each and every one of these extraordinary colleagues. I will miss their leadership and their friendship, and I wish them all the best as they embark on the next chapter. •

TRIBUTE TO HAROON KHAN

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and to extend my thanks and appreciation to Haroon Azam Khan.

For almost two decades, I have been truly fortunate to have had Haroon on my side.

Haroon's personal story is uniquely American. While his parents Mohammad Azam and Anjum Khan immigrated to the United States in the 1960's, the first members of Haroon's family arrived in the United States in 1906 and settled in Willows, CA.

Haroon's interest in government started early, first as an intern in the district office of my friend and former colleague Congressman Bob Matsui and then as an intern in The White House.

After graduating from the University of California at Berkeley, Haroon joined my first Senate campaign and then worked with me as my finance and political director on each of my reelection efforts. He also worked with my colleagues Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN and Senator Chris Dodd in the same capacity.

Eventually, after working in the private sector, I invited Haroon to work for me as deputy staff director of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs.

It has been a pleasure to watch Haroon grow both personally and professionally, and it is with sincere gratitude that I would like to thank Haroon for his years of dedicated friendship, counsel and support.

TRIBUTE TO CHIP ROY

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a fearless leader, and one I am blessed to call a friend. Chip Roy. Chip reluctantly agreed to travel from Texas to Washington—frequently leaving his beautiful wife Carrah and his

two precious children, Charlie and Virginia—to help build and lead one of the most talented and principled conservative teams on Capitol Hill, and to Make D.C. Listen. He did. He will continue to lead in Texas, now just from a different front.

My good friends in Texas, especially newly elected Attorney General Paxton and Governor Abbott, are fortunate to have such a principled fighter for liberty assuming the role as First Assistant to the Attorney General. I look forward to many opportunities to continue working side-by-side to champion the rights of Texans, and all Americans.

Chip is a man of conviction. His passion is matched only by his unceasing faith. I am confident he will continue to shine a light on the truth and to serve the Great State of Texas and this Nation with the utmost dedication to the Constitution and to the Lord Almighty.

I will always be grateful for the many days—and nights—Chip dedicated to critical fights here in the Senate, from protecting citizens' Second Amendment rights, to securing our borders, to leading a national debate on the harms of Obamacare. Chip knows DC well, but he knows the American people better, and his courage to help change the way Washington does business to put our fellow Texans and Americans first is a rare gift that will continue to live on.

This is simply the beginning, as we both continue to battle to protect our God-given rights, to secure a future filled with opportunity for our beloved children, and to keep America the land of the free. May we continue to make Texas a beacon of liberty.

Chip, thank you for your tireless service, especially in the wake of your courageous battle against cancer. Thank you for your uncompromising principles. Thank you for your continued friendship. For, as Proverbs 27:17 says, "As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend." Your leadership has, and will continue to, make all who are privileged to know you stronger. May God continue to bless you, and the Great State of Texas.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARIA HARRISON

• Mrs. HAGAN. Mr. President, Maria Harrison reported for her first day of work with the Federal Aviation Administration on Monday, June 18, 1973. On January 3, 2015, she will retire from the U.S. Department of Transportation after 41 years and 6 months of service to our country as a Federal employee. Except for 10 months at the Small Business Administration, she spent her career in the transportation field:

Federal Aviation Administration, 6/18/1973 to 07/30/1977; Small Business Administration, 07/31/1977 to 05/20/1978; Department of Transportation/OST, 05/21/

1978 to 04/03/1982; Department of Transportation/MARAD, 04/04/1982 to 12/24/1983; Department of Transportation/FAA, 12/25/1983 to 06/04/1988; Department of Transportation/FRA, 6/05/1988 to 11/03/2001; and Department of Transportation/OST, 11/04/2001 to Present.

Ms. Harrison currently works in the Office of Governmental Affairs at U.S. DOT, where she has been of assistance to my office and constituents numerous of times. I am sure that every office in the U.S. Senate benefited directly from her good works. As much as her colleagues at U.S. DOT will miss her, she has earned the right to spend more time with her friends and family, especially her granddaughter whose pictures adorn the desk of her office. She has earned the deepest of gratitude from those of us in the U.S. Senate. Above all else, she has earned the thanks of the country she has so unselfishly served for over 41 years. Thank you Ms. Harrison.●

TRIBUTE TO REBECCA SCHMIDT

● Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the outstanding career of Rebecca L. Schmidt, who retired in 2014 after 30 years of dedicated service in the Federal Government. For the last 8 years of her career, Ms. Schmidt served the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission as the Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs. In that position, she brought to the agency a fresh approach to congressional relations, implementing a more rigorous and proactive liaison role with congressional offices as well as expanding the office's outreach to other Federal agencies and external groups. She received the Meritorious Executive Presidential Rank Award in 2010 in recognition of her valuable contributions to the agency, including her organizational and communications skills and her ability to build better relationships between the NRC, Congress and community groups.

Ms. Schmidt started her career in the Congressional Budget Office, and later was selected for the Presidential Management Intern Program, where she participated in executive development assignments throughout government. Ms. Schmidt's assignments included working in the Office of Program Analysis and Evaluation for the Army Chief of Staff; the Budget Division at Army Western Command Headquarters, Hawaii; the Management Secretariat and the National Security Division at OMB; and the House Budget Committee.

She later worked for the U.S. Army Support Command in Hawaii, where she supervised analysts responsible for formulating long-run strategic plans and performing management studies for the installation. For the next 7 years she worked for the Congress serving as a senior defense and international affairs analyst for the House Budget Committee and then as a senior professional staff member of the House

Armed Services Committee where she briefed Members of Congress on technical budget matters and legislative language for the Defense authorization bill.

Following her time working for Congress, Ms. Schmidt spent the next 10 years working for the Secretary of Defense. Her service included evaluating costs and benefits for operating bases as the Deputy Director of the Base Closure Office; serving as staff assisting the members of Secretary Cohen's Defense Reform Task Force; and as a budget analyst developing the Department of Defense's 5-year budget for the Under Secretary of Defense, Comptroller. Prior to her work at the NRC, Ms. Schmidt served 6 years in the Senior Executive Service as the Associate Director for Budget Presentation and Congressional Liaison in the Office of the Secretary of Defense for the Comptroller. She was responsible for preparing the Secretary of Defense, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, and the Comptroller for all budget hearings before Congress.

Over the years, she worked for four NRC Chairmen, three Secretaries of Defense and four congressional committee chairmen. She contributed her knowledge of nuclear, defense, and budget process issues and became skillful in political strategy, strategic planning and management analysis. During her three decades of public service, she demonstrated integrity, a commitment to excellence, and outstanding leadership.

Ms. Schmidt received a bachelor's degree from Wittenberg University and earned a master's degree in public policy analysis from Duke University. She has remained a loyal supporter of the Blue Devils since her graduate school days, and her blue frosted cupcakes and enthusiasm for her basketball team will be greatly missed by her congressional affairs staff during March Madness and regular season games.●

TRIBUTE TO RUSS SMITH

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, on behalf of the Delaware Delegation, I wish to honor the exemplary service of the superintendent of the First State National Historical Park, Mr. Russell P. Russ Smith. A native of New Castle, DE, and a devoted husband to his wife Jacqueline, two sons and two grandchildren, Russ returned to Delaware in May 2013 to cap his 42-year career with the National Park Service at the First State National Historical Park.

Russ began working for the National Park Service shortly after earning a degree in American history from the University of Delaware. For the 10 years prior to his work in Delaware, he managed Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park in Fredericksburg, VA. His 28 years of field experience have included assignments at Prince William Forest Park, Fort Sumter National Monument, Independence National Historical Park, Hopewell

Furnace National Historic Site and George Washington Birthplace National Monument.

In 11 years at Independence National Historical Park, Russ oversaw nearly 100 employees and was responsible for telling the park's great story in American history by planning interpretive programs, creating museum and outdoor exhibits, and developing videos and publications. In 1989, Russ continued telling America's great stories when he was named chief of interpretation and visitor services for the Mid-Atlantic region, a position in which he pioneered the current interpretive planning system used by the National Park Service.

It is fitting that his long career led him back to Delaware, where in March of 2013, President Barack Obama authorized sites in Delaware to be a part of the First State National Monument. The monument tells the story of early colonial settlement leading up to the ratification of the constitution. For the first time, Delaware was included in the National Park System, and Russ was back home, leading the monument as superintendent. Under his watch, the First State National Monument turned into the First State National Historical Park, finally giving Delaware the national park it long deserved.

Russ has received the Mid-Atlantic Region's Freeman Tilden Award, the highest award for interpretation, the Director's Design Award for his interpretive plan for the Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site, a Superior Service Award from the Department of the Interior for redesigning the National Park Service interpretive planning system and the National Park Service's Appleman-Judd-Lewis Award for excellence in cultural resource management.

Russ is a visionary and a leader. His work touched as many as 70 national park units from Maine to West Virginia and has allowed Americans and visitors from around the world to understand and enjoy the history and beauty that our Nation's national parks and monuments hold. Russ has devoted his life's work to our Nation's park service and has done a tremendous job of inspiring others to enjoy our Nation's history.

On behalf of Senator CHRIS COONS and Congressman JOHN CARNEY, I wholeheartedly thank Russ for his 42 years of service to the National Park Service and to our Nation. His model leadership and dedication to educate those of all generations is his legacy. We offer our sincere congratulations on a job well done, and wish him, his wife Jacqueline, and their family many happy, healthy and successful years to come.●

REMEMBERING MELVIN MARK RICHARDSON

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I wish to honor the life of Mel Richardson, an